



Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Keno Proposal A Bad Bet For State – letter

The governor's proposal to create a new revenue stream by promoting electronic keno gambling while removing substantial funding from problem-gambling treatment services is contradictory and should not be viewed as a positive mechanism for economic recovery.

Electronic gambling only makes an already challenging situation of underage and problem gambling worse. Dependence on more gambling revenue to solve the state's budget woes while cutting treatment funding and the promotion of any type of electronic gambling without conducting legislative research or responsible debates to assess its addictive potential is in my opinion, sadly unfortunate, absurd, reckless and irresponsible.

I agree with the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling's advocacy for legislation, programs and research that will lead to the prevention of the continuing growth of underage and problem gambling and that will assist problem gamblers and their families.

Hopefully the awaited ruling from Attorney General Richard Blumenthal on this matter will be proactive in avoiding the more than certain catastrophe that the governor's promotion of electronic gambling will have on families in the state of Connecticut.

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